Model planning checklist

❑ Identify **response variable** and **key predictor** of interest

❑ Are there any **confounding variables** (which affect *both* predictor & response)?

    ❑ **Confounders must be included** in the model

❑ Are there any **colliders** (which are affected by both predictor & response)?

    ❑ **Colliders must be excluded** from the model

❑ Are there any **moderators** of the predictor-response relationship? We'll learn about this later…

❑ Are there any **precision covariates** (which affect the response only)?

    ❑ **Include as many precision covariates** in the model as dataset size allows

❑ Are there **mediation chains** (where one variable affects another affects another…)?

    ❑ If there are **branches:** *decide* whether to choose one variable to measure total effect or include multiple predictors to separate partial effects

    ❑ If there is **one straight chain:** *choose one* variable to measure total effect